

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-11 have been canceled in favor of new claims 12-26. Claims 12-26 have been drafted to avoid the issue underlying the objection to claim 2. Support for the subject matter of the new claims is provided in the original claims and the specification on page 7, lines 15-28.

Claims 1-11 were rejected, under 35 USC §102(e), as being anticipated by Stanwood et al. (US 6,683,866). To the extent these rejections may be deemed applicable to new claims 12-26, the Applicant respectfully traverses.

The Applicant respectfully submits that Stanwood fails to disclose the features recited in new claim 12 of: (1) communicating a fixed-length packet and a fixed-length short packet, which is shorter than the fixed-length packet, between radio apparatuses, (2) identifying an Internet Group Multicast Protocol (IGMP) message contained in an Internet Protocol (IP) packet, and (3) mapping a subset of the identified IGMP message into a fixed-length short packet.

The Office Action proposes that Stanwood discloses two types of TC/PHY packets having different fixed-length sizes that correspond to the claimed fixed-length packet and fixed-length

short packet (Office Action page 3, lines 6-8). The Office Action further proposes that this disclosure is provided in column 16, lines 12-45 of Stanwood's specification.

However, as is apparent from an inspection of Fig. 7 and the cited portion of the specification, Stanwood discloses only one type of TC/PHY packet and this packet has a single fixed length. The preferred length of this fixed-length TC/PHY packet is 208 bits (see Stanwood col. 16, lines 18-20). Given that Stanwood discloses only one type of TC/PHY packet having a single fixed length, it necessarily follows that Stanwood cannot disclose the feature recited in claim 12 of communicating a fixed-length packet and a fixed-length short packet, which is shorter than the fixed-length packet, between radio apparatuses.

The Applicant respectfully submits that Stanwood also does not disclose the claimed feature of identifying an IGMP message contained in an IP packet. As a result, it necessarily follows that Stanwood cannot disclose the claimed feature of mapping a subset of the identified IGMP message into a fixed-length short packet.

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that Stanwood does not anticipate the subject matter defined by claim 12. Independent claims 19, 21, and 23 similarly recite the above-mentioned features distinguishing apparatus claim 12 from Stanwood, though

claim 23 does so with respect to a method. Therefore, allowance of claims 12, 19, 21, and 23 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

To promote a better understanding of the differences between the claimed subject matter and Stanwood's disclosure, the Applicant provides the following additional remarks. Also, the discussion below identifies features distinguishing claims 13, 20, 22 and 24 from Stanwood's disclosure.

As generally recited in claims 12, 19, 21 and 23, a first feature of the claimed invention clarified by the present amendment is that, when an Internet Group Multicast Protocol (IGMP) message is contained in an Internet Protocol (IP) packet, the IGMP message is mapped onto a fixed-length short packet that is shorter than a fixed-length packet used for communication with another radio apparatus. In addition, as generally recited in claims 13, 20, 22 and 24, another second feature of the present invention is to remove a check sum field from the IGMP message and map the rest of the IGMP message onto a fixed-length short packet. These features of the claimed invention provide an advantage of enabling efficient use of radio communication resources where multicast communication is performed employing IGMP.

By contrast to the claimed invention, Stanwood discloses MAC control messages (see col. 7, line 65, to col. 8, line 14, and col. 14, line 65, to col. 15, line 17). However, MAC control messages are used to control wireless links in lower layers than the base station. More particularly, MAC control messages are used for polls and responses in radio resource control.

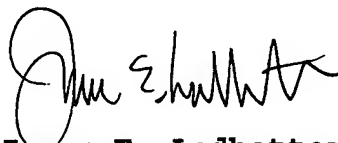
In contrast, with the claimed invention, IGMP messages are used for coordination with networks of higher layers than the base station. That is, the MAC control messages disclosed in Stanwood and the IGMP messages of the claimed invention are therefore different. Stanwood does not disclose coordination with networks of higher layers than the base station. In other words, Stanwood fails to disclose or suggest the above first feature of the claimed invention that, when an IGMP message is contained in an IP packet, the IGMP message is mapped onto a fixed-length short packet that is shorter than a fixed-length packet used for communication with another radio apparatus. Moreover, Stanwood fails to disclose or suggest the above second feature of the claimed invention of removing a check sum field from the IGMP message and mapping the rest of the IGMP message onto a fixed-length short packet.

Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Stanwood. Therefore, allowance of claims 12-26 is warranted.

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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